



Millbrook Meadow Committee

Town Hall
Rockport, MA 01966

Minutes of Meeting Wednesday, January 16, 2013

7:00 p.m. Chairman Samuel Coulbourn called the meeting to order in the Trustees' Room at the Rockport Public Library.

Members present at the Committee meeting are Shannon Mason, John and Barbara Sparks, Ted Tarr, Charmaine Blanchard and Mr. Coulbourn. Marcia Lombardo and Nate Sotis were absent. Gunilla Caulfield, Beverly Robbins, Eric Hutchins, Marty Ross and Eli Timmons were also present. At 7:30 Nancy Blue of the Rockport Garden Club arrived.

The minutes for our meeting December 17, 2012: Ms. Sparks moved and Mr. Sparks seconded, all members present voted to approve.

Mike Welcome has resigned from the Committee, and asked to belong to the Friends of the Millbrook Meadow, and Mr. Coulbourn has asked the Town Administrator to remove his name. Mr. Welcome's help with providing parking and access to the Meadow for contractors during the construction of the new dam has been tremendously valuable.

Millbrook Meadow Restoration: Ms. Sparks reported on meetings that committee members have had recently with the Public Works Commissioners and Joe Parisi, Director of Public Works, on the proposed work we seek to accomplish in the Meadow. Messrs. Sparks, and Coulbourn and Mesdames Sparks and Caulfield met with the Commissioners at their meeting on January 2nd to discuss an application for Community Preservation funds for the Restoration. This same group met with Mr. Parisi in the Meadow on January 9th to view progress on dam completion and discuss other aspects of restoration of the Meadow.

Mr. Parisi advises that the Capital Improvement Project request for funds for dredging and shaping the Mill Pond have been deferred, however he is hopeful that we can find a way to obtain funds for this.

Ms. Sparks detailed the proposed funding strategy for the Meadow Restoration.

Community Preservation Application: Mr. and Ms. Sparks presented their draft of the Committee's application for funds for restoration of the meadow. Mrs. Sparks noted that the Committee will go before the Board of Selectmen on Tuesday, January 22nd to ask the

Town to accept gift funds from the Lura Phillips Trust for the Meadow restoration project, our new mission, new limit on membership, and application for membership for Beverly Robbins. It may be an opportunity to brief the Board on the status of our plans for restoration of the Meadow, in conjunction with completion of the dam. Mr. Hutchins offered several recommended changes to the CP Application, and offered to join the small committee working with DPW on the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Restoration.

Ms. Blanchard commended Mr. and Ms. Sparks for the work they have done in preparing the CP Application. The rest of the Committee shares her approbation.

7:35 p.m. Action Timelines: Ms. Mason presented documents outlining a sequence of events for accompanying our CP Application, including various members volunteering to contact leaders of town committees and organizations to submit letters of support.

Completion of Dam: Members discussed preparing a press release on the completion of the dam. Ms. Blanchard said that she we would contact DPW and prepare a press release. Mr. Hutchins suggested that we should plan a “grand opening” of the dam with ribbon cutting, etc. It would be a good occasion to introduce our program for restoration of the Meadow.

In discussing the new dam, Marty Ross volunteered the fact that he now has some 2500 pictures of the dam construction, from start to finish.

7:52 p.m. Knotweed Eradication: Ms. Nancy Blue of the Rockport Garden Club presented a briefing on the state of the Club’s Knotweed Eradication program. She asked the Committee for a contribution for the program similar to last year, of \$300. The Committee voted unanimously to give \$300 to the Knotweed Project.

Warrant Article: Ms. Sparks introduced the idea of the Committee taking a warrant article to the April 6th Town Meeting to seek funds for Restoration of the Meadow. Ms. Blanchard moved to approve the warrant article, Mr. Tarr seconded. All voted to approve. Ms. Mason introduced a time line sequence for introducing the public to the Committee’s warrant article. Ms. Sparks will submit the article to the Town Administrator.

Visioning Session: Ms. Sparks brought up a visioning session to introduce voters to the condition of the Meadow and the need for their support. Mr. Hutchins suggested that we “seed” this with several key points of things that are dramatically failing, and things that may elicit voter attention, like willow trees that may endanger people if or when they collapse; also high coli form counts from polluted water, inasmuch as 26 storm drains dump into the Mill Brook on its way to Front Beach. Discussion followed on the format, with members saying they preferred a simple style with large flip charts and an in-house facilitator. Members suggested holding the session in the Brenner Friends’ Room at the Library on Wednesday, March 20th, 2013. [Note: Ms. Sparks has reserved the room for that date.]

Shannon Mason 2/12/13 6:12 PM

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Committee Website: The committee website is badly out of date. Ms. Mason volunteered to contact Town Hall to find out how to update it.

Adjournment: At 8:50 p.m. Ms. Sparks moved to adjourn, and Ms. Blanchard seconded. All voted to adjourn with the next meeting set for Wednesday, February 13, 2013.

Approved:

Samuel W. Coulbourn,
Chairman

Cc: Town Administrator
Director of Public Works

Shannon Mason 2/12/13 6:12 PM

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